



shôjo

BASARA



Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.9



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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Vol. #9

Shôjo Edition

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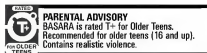
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STORY THUS FAR

In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. 300 years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in Tatara, their Chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. But even with the help of the Tengu Faction, a local gang of rebel monks, "Tatara's" rescue of "his" mother from General Kazan fails, and as a result of the conflict, Sarasa has seriously damaged her eyes.

The Red King has fared little better, for setting his forces against that of his own general creates conflict within his troops. With the urging of an agent from the "Blue King," Asho finally defies his liege, arranging a secret attack on the Red King's guest, Princess Senju, manages to escape safely with the unexpected help of Ageha, but the wounded Shuri must flee as a hapless stowaway aboard a ship headed to Okinawa. On this peaceful, prosperous island, the peniless and friendless Shuri begins to reconsider his philosophy.

Setting her allies to various tasks, Sarasa has sailed south to Okinawa in hopes of meeting Doctor Basho, a physician who might be able to cure her blindness. But it is typhoon season, and her ship has broken up just before reaching port. Washed ashore, helplessly weak and blind, she has overheard a mysterious argument...



Sarasa (disguised as Tataru)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tataru, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.



The Red King

In charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who oppose him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Seemingly intent on courting, he has given Sarasa a whistle to call a carrier parrot so they might write to each other during their travels.



Doctor Basho

Keenly perceptive with an acerbic wit, this mentor of Nagi is a highly skilled physician who resides in Okinawa.



Governor Unten

Running for Okinawa's presidency, he believes his nation must be ready to fight to keep its independence.



Yuna

Strong, smart and skilled in karate, Yuna is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and is engaged to Okinawa's incumbent president, Asato.



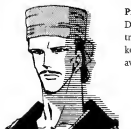
Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tataru's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, Nakijin is one of Doctor Basho's pupils, a longtime friend of Yuna's and the brother of the Okinawan presidential candidate Unten.



President Asato

Determined not to turn his country into a battlefield, he strives to keep Okinawa independent while avoiding war with Japan.



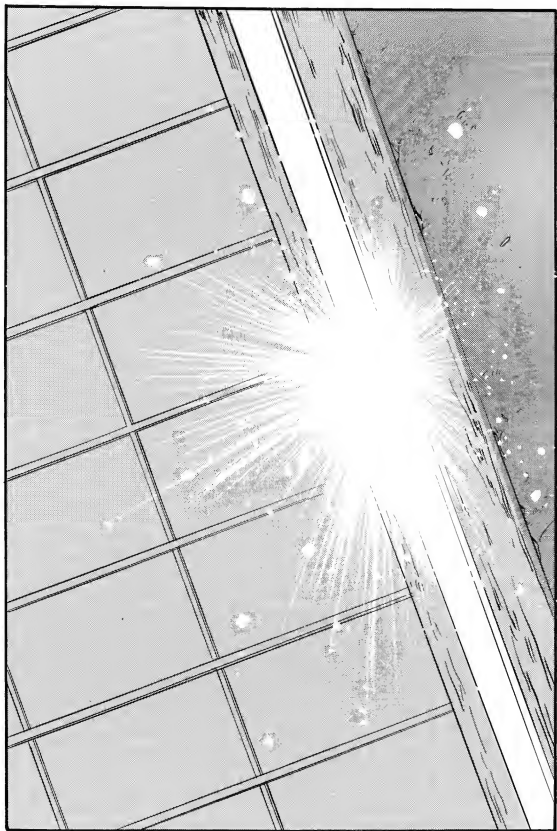
Senju

Her lady-like demeanor hides this princess' passionate heart. Fear for her fiancée's safety spurred her to drastically improper actions. A late-night visit to Shido ended in a secret marriage prior to his hunt for Tataru in southern Kyushu. She is now pregnant with Shido's child.

VERDIGRIS TALE 4: SCENARIO



VERDIGRIS TALE 4:
SCÉNARIO





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hey!
We're already
on book ②!
Thanks for
your support!



HAVE
YOU HEARD THE BASARA
IMAGE CD AND MUSIC VIDEO YET?
THEY'RE ONLY IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW.

Don't you think they're cool!??
If you haven't seen them yet,
please check them out!♡
You'll be amazed!

They're really great!
I'm so happy!

There were so many voice
actors I liked♡ and the
music is so epic!♡

As the creator of the
project, I was thrilled! ♡

TAMU

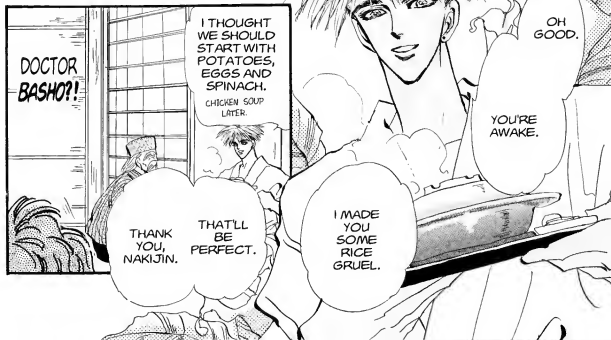
SARASA'S JOURNEY



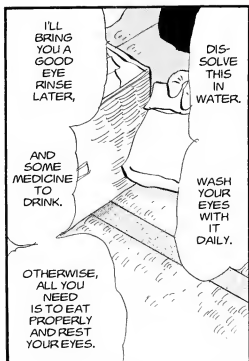
Nago

OKINAWA
Main Island

Naha ○ Shuri









DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
NAGI.

SKY



THE
VILLAGERS
ARE
LOOKING
FOR
OTHER
SURVIVORS.

I HOPE
THE MAN
WHO
WAS
WITH
YOU IS
ALIVE.



IT'S
HOT.

BE
CAREFUL.

DOC-
TOR...

ISN'T
IT?

NAKIJIN'S
A
GOOD
COOK.

IT'S
GOOD.



THAT
BOY
WILL
NEVER
DIE IN AN
ACCIDENT.

IT'S
NOT
HIS
TIME.

HE'S
KNOWN
HIS
DESTINY
SINCE
HE WAS A
CHILD.

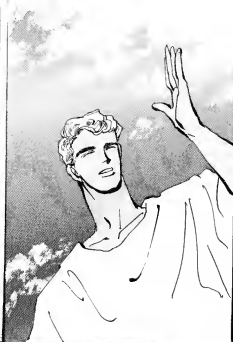
AS HIS
MENTOR,
I PROMISE
YOU THAT.

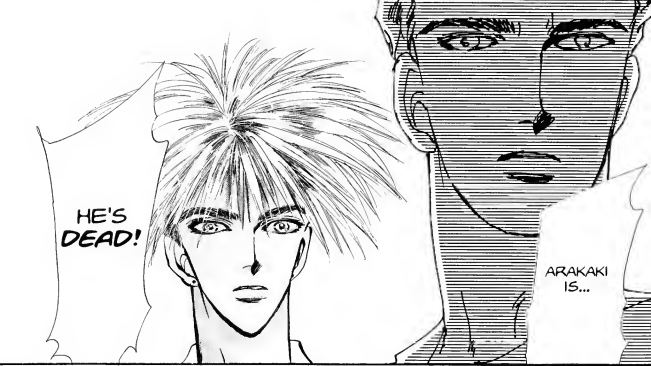
SO
PLEASE
SLEEP
SOUNDLY.





NAKIJIN.





HE'S
DEAD!

ARAKAKI
IS...

OH
NO!

UNDER
A
TREE
WE...

WE
WERE
LOOKING
FOR
SURVIVORS...

LOOK!

HE
WAS
STABBED
IN THE
CHEST--
WITH A
BLADE

THAT'S
HORRIBLE!

BZZ

BZZ

BUT...

IT'S TRUE
THAT WE
WERE
HAVING
ARAKAKI
INVESTIGATE
THE
JAPANESE
SITUATION.

HE COULD
HAVE
UNCOVERED
SOME
SECRET DEAL
BETWEEN
JAPAN AND
PRESIDENT
ASATO.

DON'T SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
UNLESS
YOU HAVE
PROOF.

AFTER
ALL,
HE'S
THE
PRESI-
DENT.

IT
WAS
ASATO.

NAKI-
JIN!

UNTEN,
I
THINK
IT
WAS
ASATO.



IT
SOUNDED
LIKE
THEY
WERE
ARGUING
AND...

...EVIDENCE.

BUT...

SOME-
ONE
WAS
THERE.

I
HEARD
A
STRANGE
SOUND.



ASATO
IS
TRYING
TO SELL
OKINAWA
TO
JAPAN...

WE
KNOW
THAT,
BUT
WITHOUT
EVIDENCE...



FOUND
DR. BASHO.

NAGI...

KATU...
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT?



I'M
GLAD
YOU
SURVIVED.

SHINBASHI,
IS
THAT
YOU?

I'M ALL
PRUNY FROM
THE SEA
WATER.



FLAPFLAP

COO.

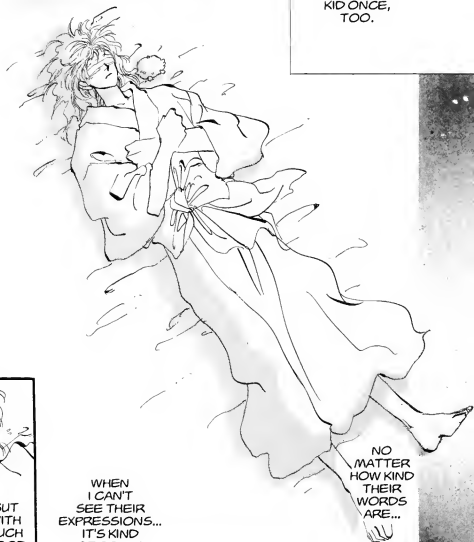
I
CAN'T
WAIT
TO
SEE
AGAIN.

HE
CALLED
NAGI
"THAT BOY".

WHAT
IS
OKINAWA
LIKE?

NAGI
WAS A
KID ONCE,
TOO.

WHAT
KIND
OF
ROOM
AM I
SLEEPING
IN NOW?



IT
MUST
BE
A
GOOD
PLACE.

BUT
WITH
SUCH
GOOD
FOOD...

WHEN
I CAN'T
SEE THEIR
EXPRESSIONS...
IT'S KIND
OF SCARY.

NO
MATTER
HOW KIND
THEIR
WORDS
ARE...

THERE'S
THE SMELL
OF LIVESTOCK...
CATTLE,
OR MAYBE
PIGS.

...I
HEAR
CHICKENS.

IF I
LISTEN
CARE-
FULLY...

THEY'RE
ROAMING
FREE.

KLUX
KLUX
KLUX

SHSS
SHSS
SHSS

THE SMELL
OF GRASS...
THE SOUND
OF WIND.

SHSS

IS IT
FLOWERS?

THAT
SWEET
SMELL...

AND
THAT
SOUND...

...I'VE
HEARD
IT
BEFORE...

TMP

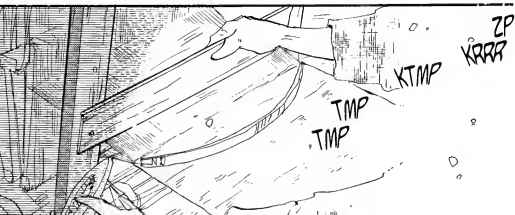
KRRR

TMP
KRR

KTMP

TMP

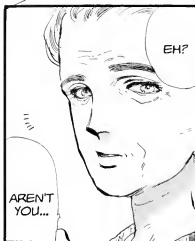
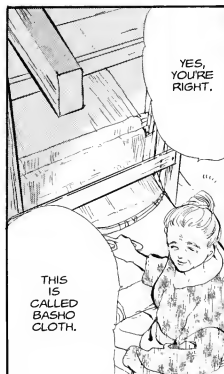
TMP



TMP
TMP

KTMP

ZP
KRRR





IT'S MADE FROM THOSE FIBER BANANA PLANTS.

YOU TEAR APART THE STEMS...

SHRR

KTMP
TMP

IT MAKES...

TMP

...A SWEET SONG.

THAT SOUND...

IT REMINDS ME OF HOME.



SARASA
COMES
FROM
THE
NAME...

MY
VILLAGE
IS GONE,
BUT...

...THIS
PLACE
SMELLS
THE
SAME.

...OF A
BEAUTIFUL
TYPE
OF
CLOTH.



EH?

SARASA!

MOM,
DO
YOU
WANT
SOME
TEA?

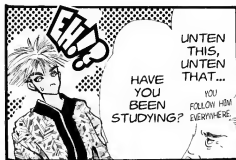


HERE,
I'VE
GOT
YOU.

YOU
HAVE
TO
LIE
DOWN!

WHAT?





RATTLE

PARTY?

IT'S
ALMOST
TIME
FOR THE
PARTY.

KLOP
KLOP

KREAK

I'LL
BE
DANCING
WITH
NAKIJIN.

YES.
THOUGH
THE
ELECTION
IS STILL
AWAYS
OFF.

FROM
HERE
ON,
IT'S
UPHILL.

HEY
SHURI.

GET OUT
AND
PUSH THE
CARRIAGE.

COME
ON
NOW,
PUSH.

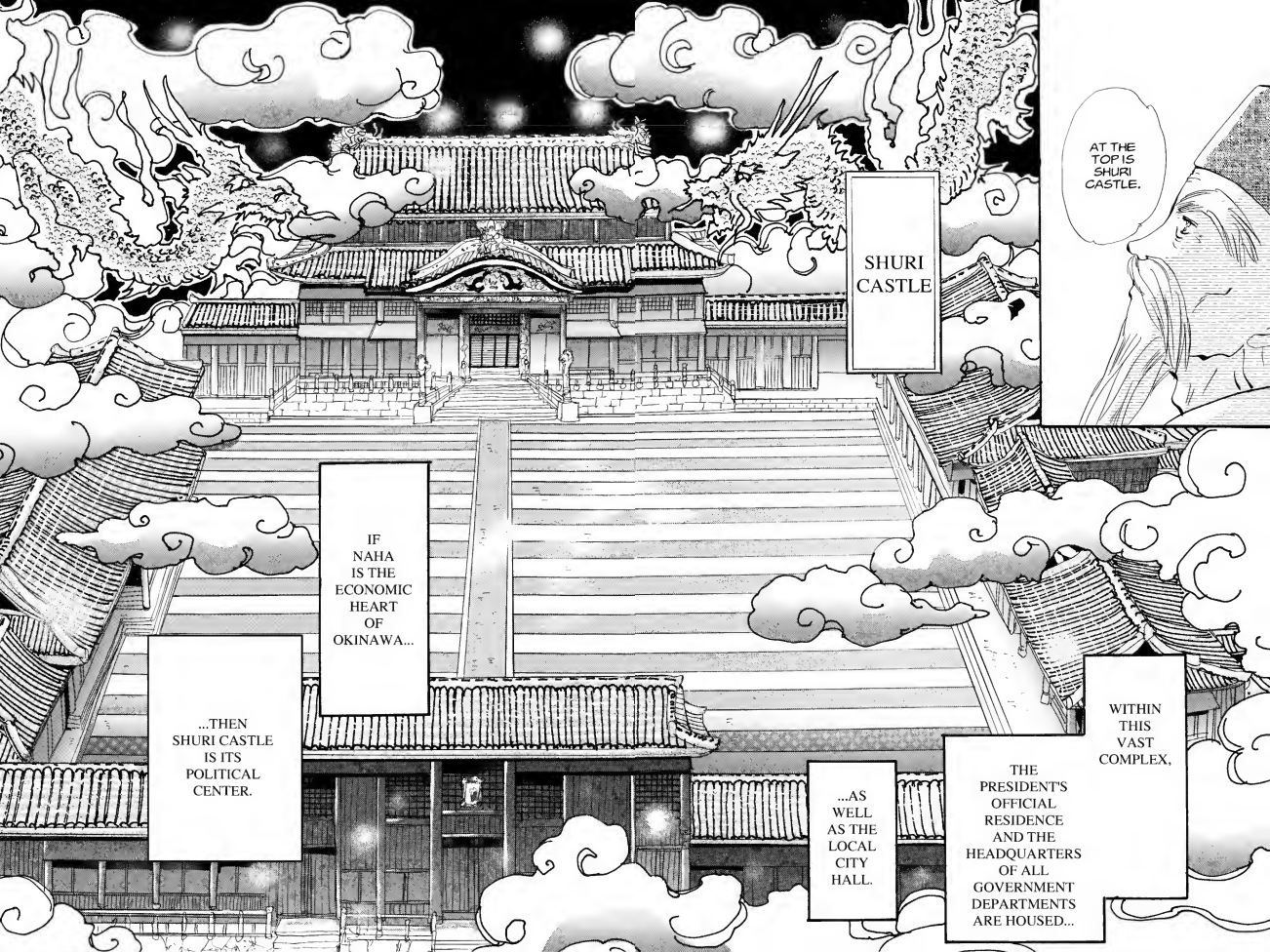
WHY DO
YOU
THINK
I BROUGHT
YOU
ALONG?

HARDER!

THERE'S
A
BOAT
RACE.

AND
BULL
FIGHTS.

BULLS
FROM EACH
OF THE TWO
PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES
WILL FIGHT
FOR THEIR
HONOR.



SHURI
CASTLE

IF
NAHA
IS THE
ECONOMIC
HEART
OF
OKINAWA...

...THEN
SHURI CASTLE
IS ITS
POLITICAL
CENTER.

...AS
WELL
AS THE
LOCAL
CITY
HALL.

THE
PRESIDENT'S
OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE
AND THE
HEADQUARTERS
OF ALL
GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS
ARE HOUSED...

WITHIN
THIS
VAST
COMPLEX,

AT THE
TOP IS
SHURI
CASTLE.



IT'S
NAMES
AS IF IT
WERE
MEANT
FOR ME.

CASTLE
SHURI...

WRONG KANJI,
BUT IT'S RED.



MR.
ASATO!

WELCOME,
DR.
BASHO!

GOOD
TO
SEE
YOU!

BUT WE'VE
BROUGHT
YOU
SOUVENIRS
FROM
JAPAN.

MR.
PRESIDENT,
MY
APOLOGIES.
THE
TYPHOON
DELAYED
US.



STUPID
BOY!

BONK



YOU
INDULGE
IN SUCH
MEGALO-
MANIACAL
IDEAS...

...ALL
BECAUSE
OF THAT
BRAND
ON
YOUR
BACK.

THANKS
TO A
LIFETIME
OF
PITYING
YOURSELF...



HA,
HA,
HA,
HA!

MAYBE
I'LL
JOIN
YOU.

THAT
LOOKS
FUN.



WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK?

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
?!



ODDLY
ENOUGH,
HIS
NAME
IS
SHURI...

YOU
SHOULD
MEET
MY
GUEST.

GONE

EH?
SHURI!?



THE
DESIGN
LEAVES
IT SO
OPEN TO
ATTACK
IT'S
LUDICROUS.

THERE'S
NO
MEANS
OF
DEFENSE.

...LET
ALONE
WHAT'S
NEEDED
TO
WITHSTAND
A SIEGE.

YOU
CALL
THIS A
CASTLE?

IT'S A
RESTROOM.
NO MORE.



MR.
ASATO!

MR.
PRESIDENT!



YOU
DON'T
SEEM
TO LIKE
THIS
CASTLE.

WHY
SHOULD
I?





NOT
EVER.



IS
YOUR
COUNTRY
DIFFERENT?

ISN'T
THIS
TRUE OF
ANY
COUNTRY'S
LEADER?

MY
FIRST
THOUGHT
IS FOR THE
LIVES AND
WELFARE
OF MY
COUNTRYMEN.



...DO I
WANT
TO PROTECT
THE
MOST?



AND
WHAT...

IF I
STAY
HERE
LONG...

I FEEL
LIKE
I'LL
LOSE
MYSELF.

THIS
IS A
STRANGE
COUNTRY.

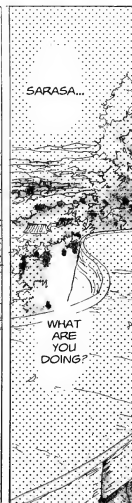
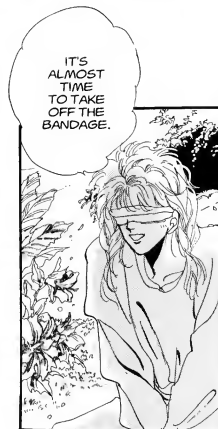
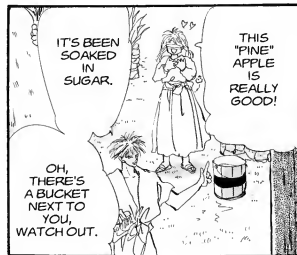


MR. ASATO,
DON'T
WASTE
YOUR TIME
WITH THAT
BUFFOON.

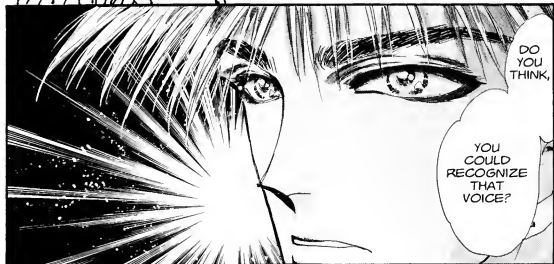
WAIT
OVER
THERE!
DOLT.

HA,
HA!

THAT'S
NOT
VERY
NICE!









I'M FINE.

YOU OKAY?

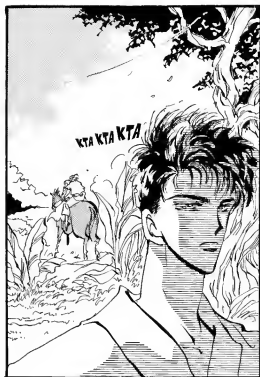
KTA KTA KTA KTA



YOU'LL END UP IN NAHA, WHERE THE PARTY IS GOING TO BE.

IF YOU KEEP GOING DOWN THIS ROAD TO THE SOUTH-

KTA KTA KTA



KTA KTA KTA

KTA KTA
HE'S BEEN STAYING WITH DR. BASHO.

LET'S STEER CLEAR OF HIM.



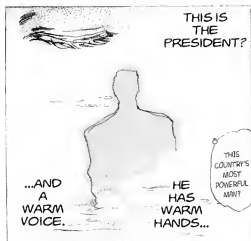
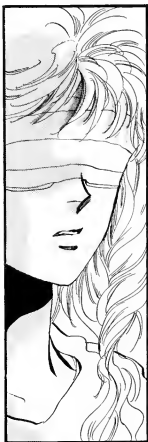
A BAD MAN?



IT'S THAT BASTARD AGAIN.

HE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND HERE.

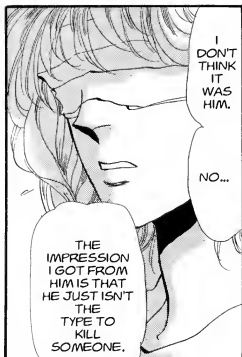






HE
PROBABLY
DOESN'T
WANT TO
GET HIS
HANDS
DIRTY.

MAYBE
HE HAD
SOMEONE
ELSE
DO IT.



I
DON'T
THINK
IT
WAS
HIM.

NO...

THE
IMPRESSION
I GOT FROM
HIM IS THAT
HE JUST ISN'T
THE
TYPE TO
KILL
SOMEONE.



YADDA YADDA
YADDA YADDA
YADDA YADDA

AH,
MY BROTHER'S
STARTING HIS
SPEECH OVER
THERE.
LET'S GO!



I
RESPECT
HIM.



MY
FATHER
DIED
WHEN
I WAS
YOUNG,

AND MY
MOTHER
HAD A
ROUGH
TIME.

HERE,
GRAB ON.

MY
BROTHER
HELPED
OUT WITH
EVERYTHING.



YOU
MUST
REALLY
LOVE YOUR
BROTHER!

OF
COURSE!



I ASK
YOU--

YOU'VE
GOT
A
BROTHER
?

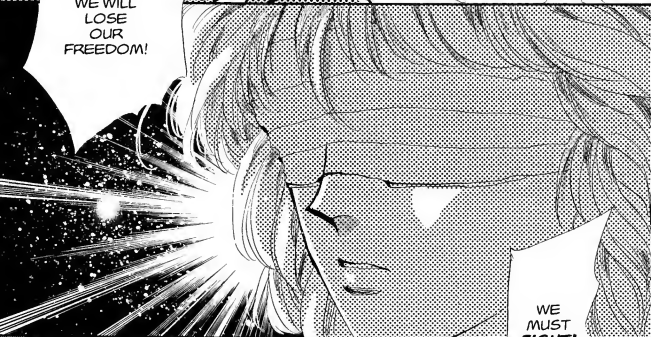
WHAT IS
THE USE
OF EMPTY
PROMISES
OF
PEACE?

HOW
LUCKY TO
HAVE A
BROTHER
LIKE
THAT...

I DID,
BUT
NOW...

I RESPECT
MY
BROTHER,
TOO.

IF WE
ARE
INVADED
BY JAPAN,
WE WILL
LOSE
OUR
FREEDOM!



WE
MUST
FIGHT!

AND
WITH
PRIDE!

WITH
COURAGE!



...THAT
VOICE!



OH,
YES!
THE GIRL
WHO WAS
WASHED
ASHORE?

UNTEN,

LET
ME
INTRO-
DUCE
YOU TO
SARASA.



NAKI-
JIN
!

...



YAY
YAY
YAY

WE'RE
WITH
YOU!

NAKIJIN?

IS
THAT...

YOU
CAN
DO
IT!

YOUR
BROTHER?

YES,

THANK
YOU!

THAT'S
MY
BROTHER
UNTEN.



SHE SAID
SHE'D
KNOW
IF SHE
HEARD IT
AGAIN,

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT NOT
ONLY THAT--
SHE
HEARD
THE VOICE
OF
ARAKAKI'S
MURDERER.

SO I
BROUGHT
HER TO
HEAR
ASATO'S
VOICE.



YOU'D
RECOG-
NIZE
IT?

IF
YOU
HEAR
IT
AGAIN...



ARE
YOU
SURE?



WH-WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

NO!

YOU'VE
PUT ME
IN A FIX.
I NEED THIS
KEPT QUIET
A WHILE
LONGER.

--WHILE
YOU
LIE
TO THE
PEOPLE--

BETRAY
THE
COUNTRY!



BECAUSE
HE'D
LEARNED
A SECRET!

HE
KILLED
ONE OF
HIS OWN
MEN--



PLEASE,
TELL
ME.

...WELL?
DO YOU
KNOW WHO
THE
MURDERER
WAS?



SURE!

HE'S BEEN
STAYING AT THE
OFFICE.

MOM
WILL
BE SO
HAPPY!

I'LL
BE
COMING
HOME
TODAY.

NAKIJIN,
WOULD YOU
PLEASE LET
MOM KNOW
FOR ME...

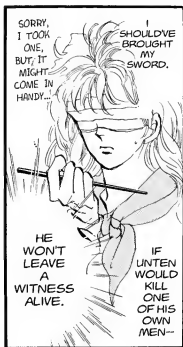
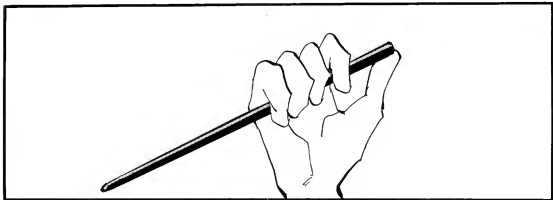


NICE TO
MEET
YOU,
MISS.
WHEN
I GET
HOME...

...YOU'LL
HAVE TO
TELL ME
ALL ABOUT
JAPAN.



THAT'S
THE
VOICE!





RIGHT NOW,

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO GO NIGHT FISHING.

WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME?



HERE, THE FRESH WATER MIXES WITH THE SALT, AND THE FISH ARE PLENTIFUL.

THIS AREA'S SPECIAL.

FISHING IS MY ONE HOBBY.

...THE VOICE OF THE MURDERER, DON'T YOU?

TELL ME...

YOU ALREADY KNOW...



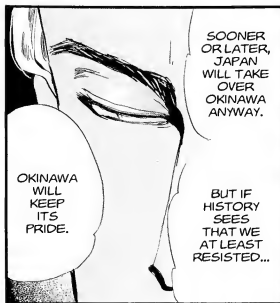
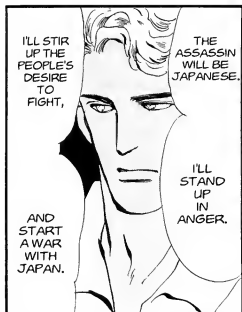


SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU
WAITING.

THANKS,
UNTEN.

THANK
YOU
FOR
COMING
ALL THE
WAY
FROM
JAPAN.







...MY
SCENARIO
FOR
HANDING
OVER
OKINAWA.

THAT'S
THE
PLAN.



...ACCEPT
THAT
SCENARIO
IN THE
NAME
OF OUR
KING.

AND WE,
THE
BIRD
BROTHERS
...



YOU
HEARD
EVERY-
THING.

SO
GET
READY.



WELL,
LITTLE
GIRL.



SEE
YOU IN
THREE
DAYS.



THREE
DAYS.









SO
VERY
ANGRY!

IT
MAKES
ME
ANGRY.



BUT I
CAN'T
LET
HIM
BE
KILLED!

I DON'T
COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND
THE
SITUATION--



I HAVE
TO TELL
PRESIDENT
ASATO!



LET'S
WALK
TO
NAHA!

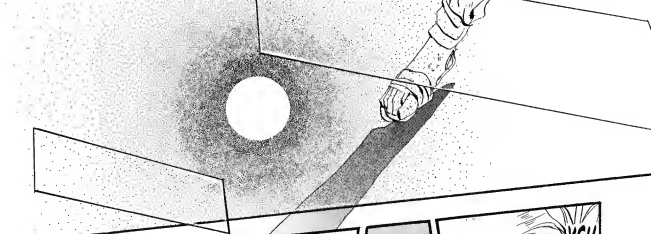
LET'S GO
SHINBASHI.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
FAR IT IS,
BUT--



IF YOU
KEEP GOING
DOWN THIS
ROAD TO THE
SOUTH...

YOU'LL
END UP
IN NAHA,
WHERE THE
PARTY IS
GOING TO
BE.



SHINBASHI,
IS THIS
THE
RIGHT
WAY?

HOO!

IS
THIS
RIGHT?



THEY
MIGHT HAVE
MORE MEN
WITH
THEM.

I CAN'T
ASK
ANYBODY
FOR
HELP.



BZZ
BZZ

HA
HA
HA

OH!



I
WONDER
IF...

KSH
KSH

HFF
HFF

...THEY'RE
FOLLOWING
ME.

HE CAN'T SEE DURING
THE DAY.



HFF

HFF
HFF

TO BE
TREATED
LIKE A
GIRL.

IT
WAS SO
EASY...

BUT
THERE
WAS NO
TIME
FOR THAT.

NO ONE'S
HERE.
I'M ALONE.

NAGI.

KAKU.

PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER.

I'LL
GET
THROUGH
THIS BY
MYSELF.

GLUP

YOU'RE
TATARA!



WEEZ WEEZ
HFF HAA

THE PARTY...

IT'S BEGUN!

I HEAR...
MUSIC...

HEY NAKIJIN,
WHY AREN'T
YOU PUTTING
IN ANY
ENERGY?

SHE'S
GONE.

WHO?

EVEN
THOUGH
SHE
COULDN'T
SEE
YET--

SHE
LEFT.

...SUDDENLY
WITHOUT
SAYING
A WORD.

CLAP CLAP CLAP





ONE
MORE,
PLEASE.



AH!

THIS
SQUID
IS SO
GOOD!



HUH?

YOU
CAN'T
DO
THAT,
SIR!



IT'S
COCO-
NUT
JUICE.

WHAT'S
THAT?



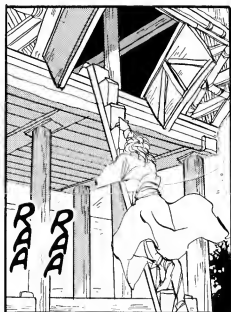
OLD
MAN
BASHO
WILL
PAY
FOR IT.

GIVE
ME
ONE
OF
THOSE,
TOO.

THANK
YOU!













ROUND
UP
THE
BULLS!

YAAA
YAAA
YAAA

WATCH
OUT!





IS
IT A
BULL!?

WHAT...?



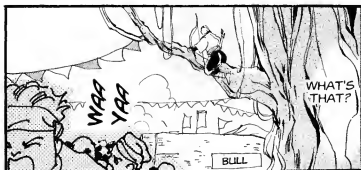
THIS
BULL'S
GOING
CRAZY,
TOO!

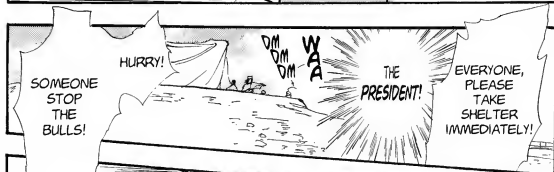
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

HURRY!

RUN
AWAY!

SARASA!









SOMEONE'S AFTER YOU!

STOP SITTING THERE!

RUN AWAY, YOU IDIOT!







SARASA!?

SARASA!!

DM

DM

DM





VERDIGRIS TALE 5: MANY FIRES

SHURI IS HERE...



SARASA IS HERE...



IN OKINAWA...



IN THIS PLACE...

BUT THAT CAN'T BE!

VERDIGRIS TALE 5:
MANY FIRES







TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

TAM-TAM

Q&A:

When you go on a research trip, do you get your expenses paid?

Never. Although sometimes it might happen if I stop somewhere en route for a book signing. ♡ ʘ

THAT'S RIGHT.

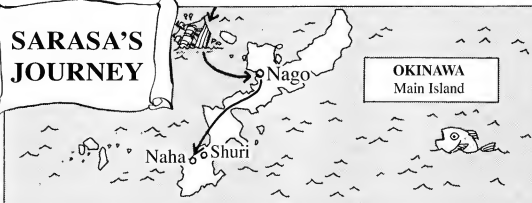
They're for "research," but they're personal trips, too.

I plan them myself, buy the tickets myself, reserve the hotel myself, go by myself, and pay for it myself. Heh, heh, heh.

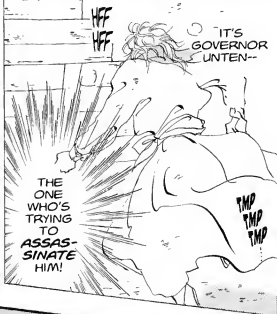
Sigh.

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY













SHUMP



ARE
YOU
HURT?





NOW...

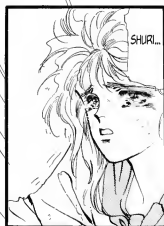
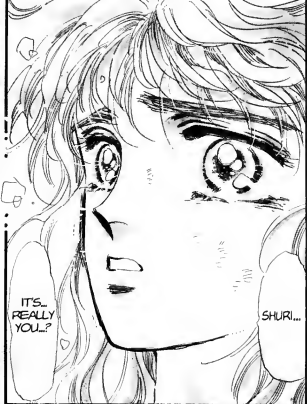
...I CAN
FINALLY
SEE
AGAIN.

JUST
WHEN I
THINK...



IS
THIS...

...A
HALLUCINATION?







NGH...

UH...

AAAA



EVEN
IF
YOU
KILL
ME--

A NEW
REPRE-
SENTATIVE
WILL BE
CHOSEN...

AND
TAKE MY
PLACE.



WHAT
DID YOU
THINK
YOU'D
ACCOM-
PLISH?

I AM NOT
LIKE THE KING
OF YOUR
COUNTRY.







DEFEND
OKINAWA
FOR US!

WE
TRUST
YOU!

YES!

SHOW
US
THE
WAY,
MR.
PRESI-
DENT!

WE'LL DO
WHATEVER
YOU
NEED!

PRESIDENT
ASATO!

ASATO!

YAY!

ASATO!

YES!

...POWERFUL...

HOW...



THEY CHOSE
THEIR
PRESIDENT.
THEY TRUST
HIM.

HOW
WONDER-
FUL
TO BE
ABLE
TO
SAY...

...THAT
YOU
LOVE
YOUR
COUNTRY.



THEY
EVEN
ASK...

...TO
HELP
HIM.



GOV-
ERNOR
UNTEN
...

HE
PLANNED
YOUR
ASSAS-
SINATION.
HE'S
WORKING
WITH THE
JAPANESE.



YOU
WEREN'T
HURT?

NO,
I
WASN'T,
BUT ...
I HAVE
TO
TELL
YOU...

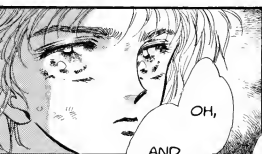
I
DON'T
WANT
NAKIJIN
TO
HEAR
THIS.



I
CAN'T
LET THIS
PRESIDENT
BE
KILLED!

AH,
YOUNG
LADY.

SIR!



OH,
AND
DON'T
WASTE
YOUR
TIME...

I'LL
PREPARE
FOR
BATTLE!







I'LL
BE
CARE-
FUL,

BUT I
CAN'T
HIDE
MYSELF
AWAY.



YOU
SHOULDN'T
WANDER
AROUND.

THOSE
MIGHT
NOT BE
THE
ONLY
ASSAS-
SINS.



I'D LIKE
TO TALK
WITH
YOU
SOME-
TIME.

YOU
HELPED
ME,
TOO.



THAT'S
WHY I
WENT
TO SEE
DR.
BASHO.

YES.

DID
YOU
HURT
YOUR
EYES?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!

YOU TOOK
THE
BANDAGES
OFF
YOURSELF!?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

THIS
OLD MAN'S
A FAMOUS
DOCTOR!?



WE'RE
ENGAGED.



I'LL
SAY!

SO YOU
TWO
KNOW
EACH
OTHER.



SORRY.

HEHEHE.

I THINK
YOU'LL
BE
FINE,
BUT
STILL...

IT'LL
SEEM
AWFULLY
BRIGHT
FOR A
WHILE.

DON'T
OVERDO
IT.



I WOULDN'T MIND IF I WERE IN THE DESERT WHERE IT'S DRY. BUT IT'S SO HUMID HERE, AND EVERYONE ELSE IS SO CLEAN...

AND I HAVEN'T TAKEN A BATH.

I'M ALL DIRTY...

UH... I RAN ALL THIS WAY.

HEY.

W-WE...

NEVER DECIDED THAT...

WHY ARE YOU GOING OVER THERE?



LONG AGO,
THERE WAS
ONE NEAR
NAKADO MARI,
BUT IT'S
BEEN DRY
FOR AGES.



THERE
ISN'T
ONE.

WHAT!?

IT'S NOT
LIKE WE
GOT
RID OF IT.

DAMN IT!



NO HOT
SPRINGS!?
WHAT KIND
OF STUPID
COUNTRY
IS THIS!?



OH,
WELL.

WE'LL
SWIM IN
THE
OCEAN.

HEY!
SHURI!

SO-

WHERE'S
A HOT
SPRING!?

WOW!



FIRST
OF
ALL...

YOU'RE
MOVED
BY
EVERY-
THING.

IT'S
LIKE THERE'S
NO
WATER.

IT'S SO
CLEAR!

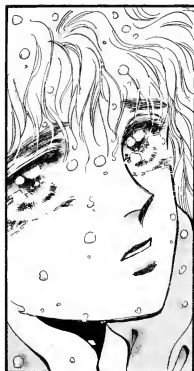
PUSH
PLASH

EVEN
THOUGH
ALL OF THE
OCEANS
ARE CONNECT-
ED!?

WHY?

WHY DOES
THE OCEAN
LOOK
DIFFERENT
FROM
PLACE TO
PLACE--

AH!



WELL.

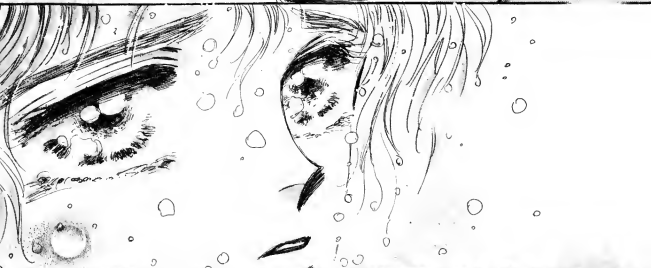
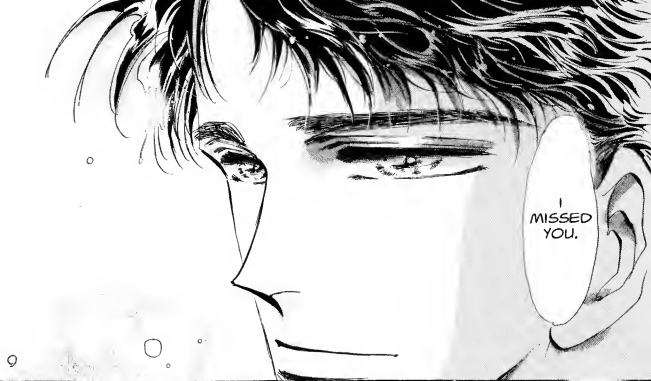
I GUESS
THAT'S
ENOUGH.



WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR?

APPAR-
ENTLY
THE
WOMEN IN
OKINAWA
PURIFY
THEIR
BODIES
IN THE
OCEAN.

BLB?
I WAS SLEEP-
ING.







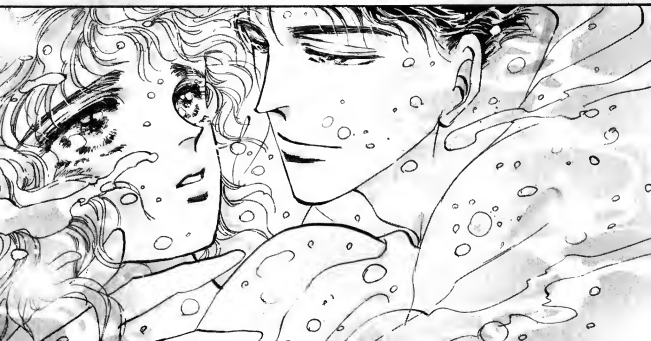
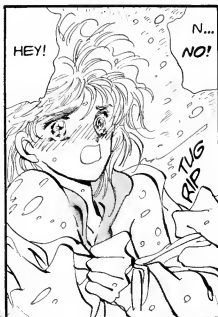
SHURI...



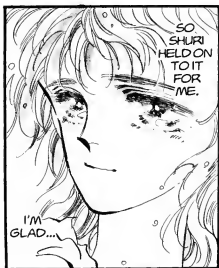
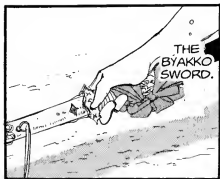
SHURI...



FLASH









DON'T
TALK
ABOUT
DUMP-
LINGS!



DID
YOUR
DUMPLING
SHOP
GO OUT
OF BUSI-
NESS!?



I'VE
LOST
EVERY-
THING.

HOW-
EVER...

I DON'T
GET TO
HAVE
YOU FOR
MY WIFE
YET.

I'VE
BECOME
HOMELESS
AND PENNI-
LESS.



...SO
SHURI-
ESQUE!

THAT'S
JUST
SO...

WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?

HA!
HA!



THAT'S
WHY I
TOLD
YOU...

EVENTUALLY
IT WILL
COME BACK
TO HAUNT
YOU.

IF YOU
STEP
ON
PEOPLE



I CAN
JUST
SEE IT.

YOU
LOST
YOUR
HEAD--

AND
ACCIDENTALLY
PISSED OFF
SOMEBODY
YOU
NEEDED!



HUH?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...
SHURI-
ESQUE!?

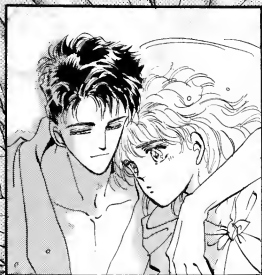


JUST
AS
HORNY
AS
BEFORE.

I
GUESS.

HSS
POP

BUT
YOU
DON'T
SEEM
TO
BE
TOO
DE-
PRESSED.



HEH
HEH

YOU
DON'T
GIVE
UP,

DO
YOU
SHURI?

I DON'T
KNOW YOU
THAT WELL,
BUT...



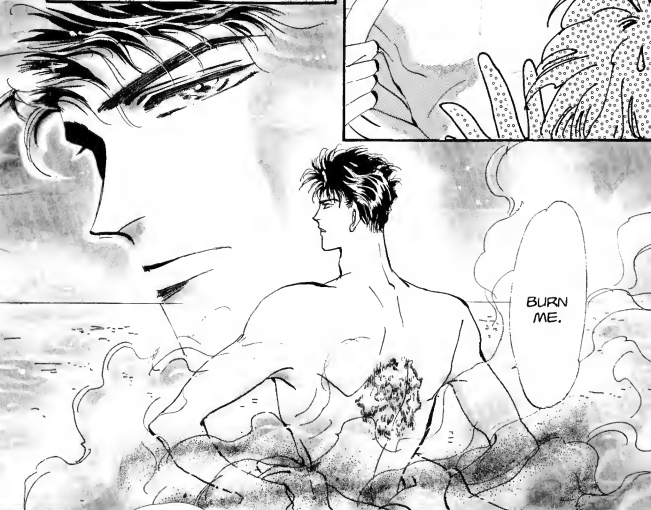
I'VE
GOT
A
FAVOR
TO
ASK.

SARASA.

THE
HARDER
THINGS
GET,

THE
MORE
FULL
OF
LIFE
YOU
BECOME.

IT'S
AMAZING.

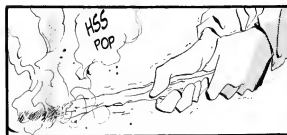


TAKE THAT
FIRE AND
BURN IT
OFF.

BURN THIS
BRAND.



IF SHE DID IT TO SHINBAGHI
HE'D BE VIKTOR!







I WANT
TO ERASE
THIS
BRAND.

THEN I
WILL BE
REBORN.



...HAVE I
FINALLY
REAL-
IZED IT.



BUT
"

ALL OF
IT WAS
GIVEN
TO ME
BY MY
FATHER.

THE
TRUTH
IS,
EVERY-
THING
I'VE
EVER
HAD...



SHURI!



I
WANT
YOU...

TO
BE THE
ONE TO
DO IT.

PLEASE.

254

255





WE
LOVE
THIS
CITY!

THE
NIGHT I
WAS
CHASED
OUT OF
SUO--

MY
SUBJECTS
BETRAYED
ME SO
QUICKLY, BUT--

THEY
TRIED
TO
HELP
ME.

THE
TOWN'S
PEOPLE...



I AM
SHURI,
THE
RED
KING!

I AM
NOT
LIKE
YOU!

I AM A
KING!



BUT...

I DIDN'T
WANT
TO
ACCEPT
IT.



I
WAS...

MOVED BY
THAT.

I WILL
BE
RE-
BORN
...

YET
...

I
CLUNG
TO IT.

...AS
MY
OWN
MAN.

WHAT A
JOKE.

THE NAME
"RED KING."

THE
DESERT
LAND.

MY
FATHER
GAVE IT
ALL
TO ME.

I'VE
NEVER...

EARNED
ANYTHING
ON MY
OWN.

I AM
A KING
BY
BIRTH!

A TITLE...

I
INHERITED
FROM MY
FATHER.



WITH MY
OWN
POWER!

I WILL
RULE
THE
WORLD...



I
WILL
BE--

A TRUE,
ABSOLUTE
DICTATOR!

I
WON'T
BE
A
KING!

NOT
JUST
A
KING!







IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
SO HEAVY...
THE LOAD
HE'S BEEN
CARRYING.



HE...

HE'S
LAUGHING!



WE HAVE
TO GET
DR.
BASHO
TO TREAT
YOU.

PAP HA HA HA

SHURI!



...
ULP
...

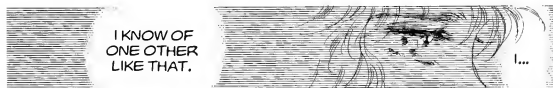
WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO
WITH
THAT
SALT
WATER?

GOING
TO
TORTURE
MET

TCH



THE BRAND
OF A
SLAVE...



I KNOW OF
ONE OTHER
LIKE THAT.

I...

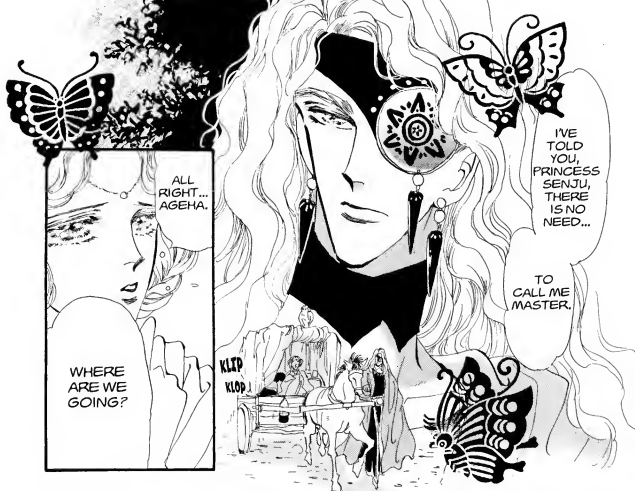


LORD
AGEHA.

KLIP
KLOP

WILL
AGEHA
EVER
BURN
HIS
BACK,
TOO?

I
WONDER
...



ALL
RIGHT...
AGEHA.

I'VE
TOLD
YOU,
PRINCESS
SENJU,
THERE
IS NO
NEED...

TO
CALL ME
MASTER.

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

KLIP
KLOP



**TATARA
KILLED
HIM!**

I
KNOW
WHY!

KLIP
KLOP

YOUR
CHILD
WILL
SUFFER
THE SAME
DESTINY.

IF YOU
REMAIN
BITTER
FOREVER...



IN
THAT
CASE
...

YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
WHY
SHIDO
DIED.

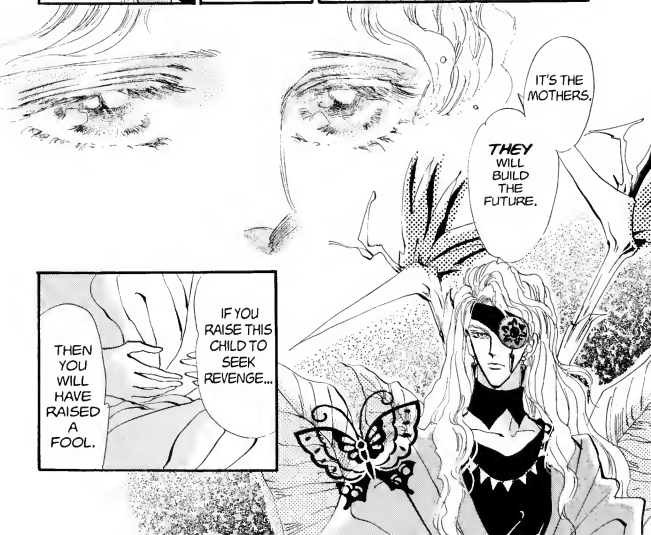


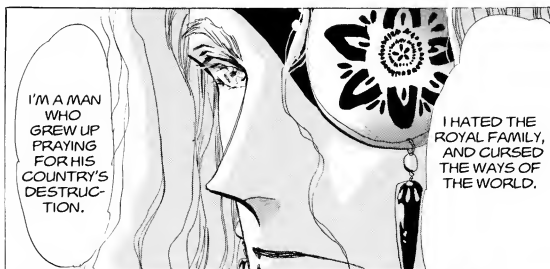
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
I'VE
BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT...

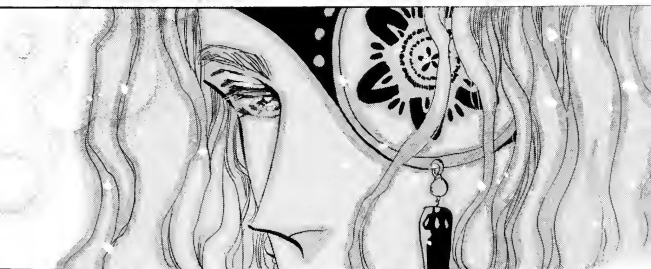
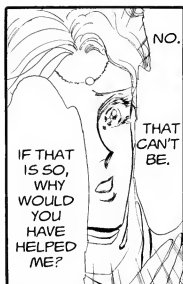
YOU
SEEM
PRE-
PARED
NOT TO
RETURN
TO YOUR
PARENTS.

KLIP
KLOP

YES, OF
COURSE.







...DOESN'T LAST.

HATRED...



TATARA...

CAN
YOU
SEE
...

THE
ROAD
YOU
MUST
TRAVEL?

I WONDER
IF YOU
REALIZE
THAT.

YOU
CAN
NEVER...

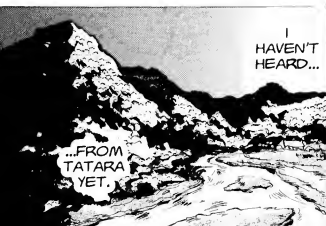
...
CREATE
ANY-
THING
FROM
HATRED.

WHEN
YOU'RE
LIVING,

AND
WALKING,
AND
MEETING
PEOPLE...

WHEN
YOU
FIND
LOVE...

HATRED
FADES.



I
HAVEN'T
HEARD...

...FROM
TATARA
YET.



NOW?
I
CAN'T
SAY.



SO
NOW
...

WHOSE
SIDE ARE
YOU ON?



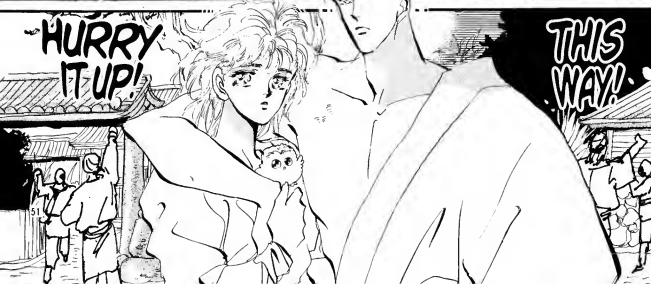
WHAT
KIND OF
COUNTRY
DO YOU
WANT TO
BUILD?



...THE
ANSWERS
FROM
YOUR
LIPS.

I STILL
HAVEN'T
HEARD...

HOW
WILL
YOU
CHANGE
THINGS?



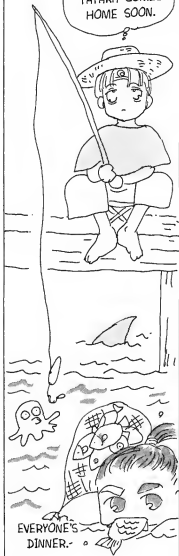
HURRY
IT UP!

THIS
WAY!

BONUS!

MEANWHILE,
ASAGI IS THINKING...

I HOPE
TATARA COMES
HOME SOON.



LET'S
SECURE
THE
HARBOR,
TOO!

YEAH!

RAAAH!

WE'VE
GOTTA
GUARD
THE
PRES-
IDENT!

WE'LL
TAKE
TURNS
KEEPING
WATCH!



OKINAWA
IS
SUCH
A
GOOD
COUNTRY.

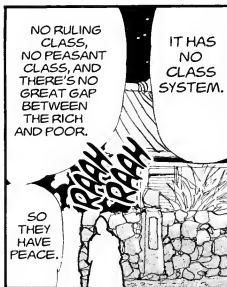
I
ENVY
THEM.



NO RULING
CLASS,
NO PEASANT
CLASS, AND
THERE'S NO
GREAT GAP
BETWEEN
THE RICH
AND POOR.

IT HAS
NO
CLASS
SYSTEM.

SO
THEY
HAVE
PEACE.



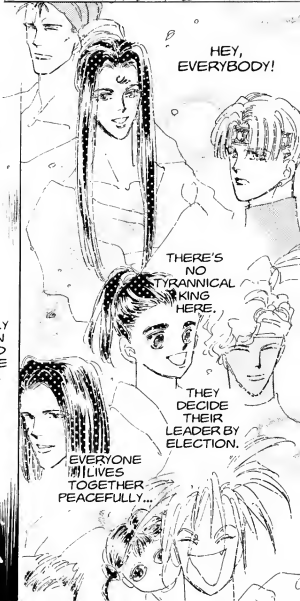
I'VE
WALKED
THIS
COUNTRY
FROM
END
TO END.





I WANT
TO TELL
EVERYONE--

COUNTRIES
LIKE
THIS
DO
EXIST.



HEY,
EVERYBODY!

THERE'S
NO
TYRANNICAL
KING
HERE.

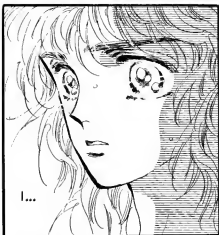
THEY
DECIDE
THEIR
LEADER BY
ELECTION.

EVERYONE
LIVES
TOGETHER
PEACEFULLY...

IF ONLY
JAPAN
COULD
BE LIKE
THIS...

I KNEW I HAD TO
OVERTHROW
THE KING...

BUT I
DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO
AFTER-
WARDS.



I...

...IS AN
EXAMPLE.

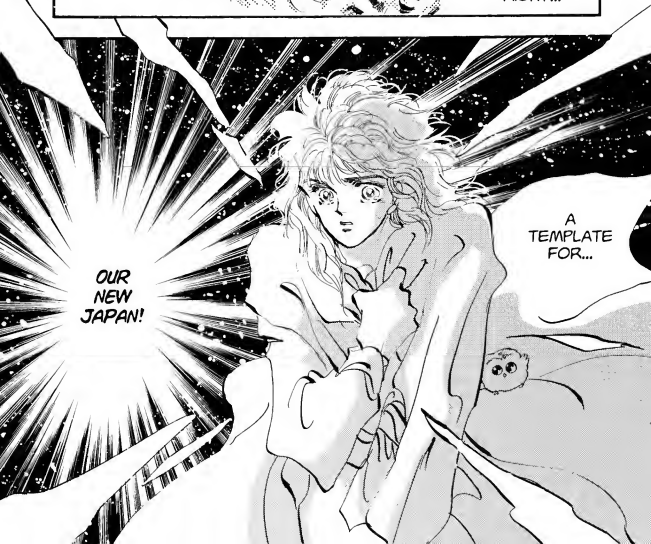
BUT
HERE...



...I'M STILL NOT
SURE WHAT'S
RIGHT...

OUR
NEW
JAPAN!

A
TEMPLATE
FOR...





HA
HA
HA

DID YOU
FALL
ASLEEP
IN IT?

YOU'RE
BURNT
TO A
CRISP!

HAHAHAHA

IS IT
THAT
FUNNY?



HO HO

YOU FELL
ON TOP
OF A
FIRE!?



...OR
ASK FOR
HELP
FROM A
FOREIGN
NATION.

WE
WAIT
FOR THAT
...

BUT THEN
WE RUN
THE RISK
OF BEING
TAKEN
OVER BY
OUR ALLY.

CLOTHES
BORROWED
FROM YUNA.



JAPAN
IS A
TINDER-
BOX.

IF A TRUE CIVIL
WAR BREAKS OUT,
THE KING WON'T
BE ABLE TO PAY
ATTENTION TO
OKINAWA.



YES,
YES.

IS THE
PRESI-
DENT
ALL
RIGHT?

APPAR-
ENTLY
HE'S
BUSY
WITH
MEET-
INGS.



BUY
TIME?

SURE'S
BACK.

BUT ALL
HE CAN
DO IS TRY
TO BUY
TIME.

IT'S
TOUGH.



THIS
COUNTRY
HAS A
SHADOW
IN ITS
HISTORY.

LONG AGO,
DURING A
GREAT WAR,
THIS ISLAND
WAS TURNED
INTO A
TERRIBLE
BATTLEFIELD.



.....

YOU
TWO
WOULDN'T
KNOW,
BUT...



YOU
SHOULD
FIGHT.

IT'S NOT
AS IF
YOU'RE
CERTAIN
TO LOSE.



IT MADE
THE
NATURAL
DISASTERS
OF
CENTURIES
AGO SEEM
LIKE
NOTHING.

THAT
STORY
HAS
BEEN
PASSED
ON FOR
GENERATIONS.

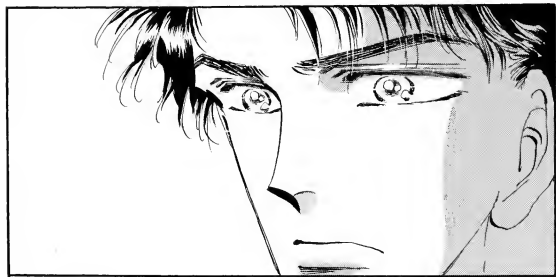
THAT
IS
WHY...

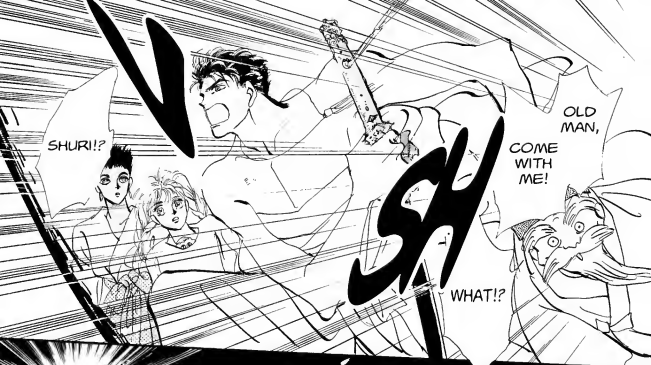
WE
DON'T
LIKE TO
FIGHT.

IT'S THE
FIRST
THING
WE HEAR
WHEN
WE ARE
BORN.

HUNDREDS
OF
THOUSANDS
OF OUR
PEOPLE
DIED IN THE
WAR.

THEY SAY
MOST OF
THEM WERE
WOMEN
AND
CHILDREN.





SHURI!?

OLD
MAN,

COME
WITH
ME!

WHAT!?

BUT
THERE
ARE
THREE
OF THEM!

THE BIRD
BROTHERS ONLY
WORK FOR KING
UKON.

THE
SPIDER!

IS THE
ELDEST,
THE ONE
CALLED--

AND THE
DEADLIEST
ONE...





THE
PRESIDENT!

SSSHHHH

2000!



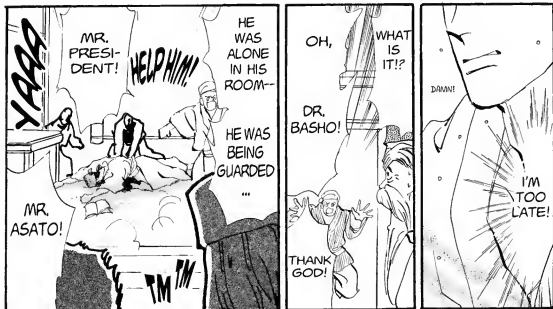
MR.
PRESIDENT!

HELP HIM!

HE
WAS
ALONE
IN HIS
ROOM--

HE WAS
BEING
GUARDED
...

MR.
ASATO!



OH,

WHAT
IS
IT!?

DAMN!

DR.
BASHO!

THANK
GOD!

I'M
TOO
LATE!



BE STRONG,
ASATO!

I
WON'T
LET
HIM
DIE--

NOT
ON MY
WATCH!



THIS
IS
BAD.

SHUT
UP!

WILL
HE
LIVE?





VERDIGRIS TALE 6:
GHOST SHIP



THE JAPANESE
WILL NOT TAKE
OKINAWA!

WHILE
I'M ON
GUARD--



SHURI!

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

I've always been a big baseball fan, but I was never really that into soccer. So I didn't think I'd be that interested when the J-League season started. But thanks to Alcindo of the Antlers, I started paying attention. Heh, heh. I guess I follow the trends...

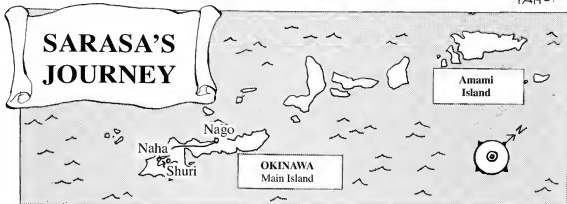
Of course I like Sumo, too!♥
...and volleyball and tennis and car racing...



ON TV, THEY'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT WHICH IS COOLER, SOCCER OR BASEBALL. IT'S A STUPID TOPIC, AND I WISH THEY'D QUIT IT. ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THEY'RE BOTH COOL? THEY'RE PLAYING HARD!

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY

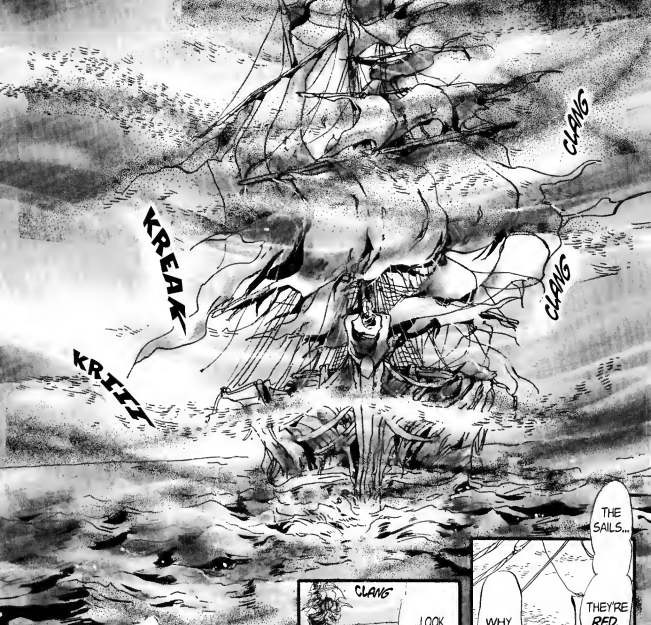


ZZSSH

IT'S THE
NORTHERN
MOST POINT OF
THE
NATION OF
OKINAWA.

THAT'S
AMAMI
ISLAND.





H...HEY.

IT
CAN'T
BE...



CLANG

I DON'T
SEE
ANYONE
ON DECK.

BUT
THERE'S
A BELL
SOUNDING!



CLANG

...LOOK
SO
BATTERED?

YOU'RE
GOING
TO HIT
US!

HEY!
IS THERE
ANYONE
ON
BOARD!?



THE
SAILS...

THEY'RE
RED.

WHY
DOES
IT...

BR





THEY SAID THE TEST WENT WELL.

AND?

WE GOT A MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE OF AMAMI!

SHURI!

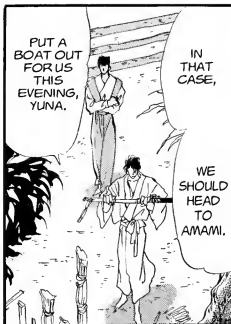
GOOD.

OKINAWA MAIN ISLAND



...BUT
WITH MR.
ASATO
IN HIS
CURRENT
STATE,

I DON'T
WANT
TO
LEAVE
HIM.



PUT A
BOAT OUT
FOR US
THIS
EVENING,
YUNA.

IN
THAT
CASE,

WE
SHOULD
HEAD
TO
AMAMI.



I NEED
YOUR
EXPER-
TISE.

YOU, A LONE
WOMAN,
WERE ABLE
TO
COMMAND
THAT SHIP
PERFECTLY.

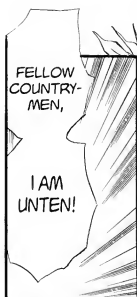
WHILE
EN
ROUTE
TO
OKINAWA...

COME
WITH
ME.

I'M SURE
YOU KNOW
THE LOCAL
WATERS VERY
WELL, TOO.

I WAS
SECRETLY
IMPRESSED
BY YOU.

...WHILE
YOU HAD
ME BUSY
CLEAN-
ING THE
SHIP'S
DECK,





OUR ONLY HOPE TO
SAVE OUR PRIDE
WHILE PREVENTING
THE SLAUGHTER OF
OUR PEOPLE...

THERE
IS
NO
OTHER
WAY...

...IS TO
SURRENDER
IMMEDIATELY,
AS SOON AS
WAR IS
DECLARED.

...TO AVOID
WHOLESALE
BLOODSHED...



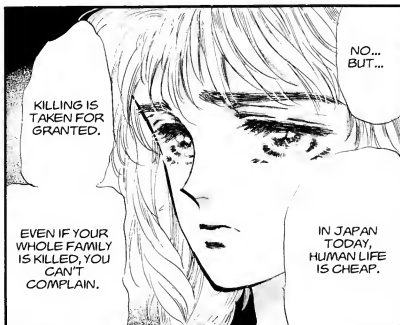
...A
MIXED
REACTION.

A LOT OF
THEM ARE
STILL GIVING
THE
PRESIDENT
THEIR TRUST.



JAPAN
HAS
TOLD
US—

WE MUST
UNIFY THE
COUNTRY'S
SUPPORT
IMMEDIATELY.





...AS LONG
AS THAT
FAMILY IS
RULING IT!

JAPAN
WILL BE
HELL...



I'VE
GOT
PROOF.

THEY'RE
TRYING TO
AVOID WAR.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE IN JAPAN
WHO ARE WORKING
WITH OUR
PRESIDENT...



NOW, YOU
CAN'T
GENERALIZE
LIKE THAT.

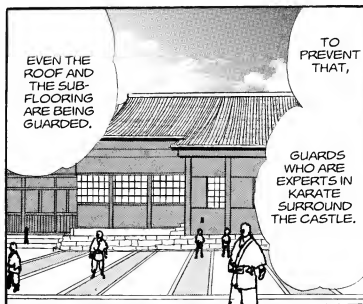
THERE
ARE
SOME
GOOD
PEOPLE,
TOO.



THIS
PRESIDENT
IS THAT
IMPORTANT.

NOT AS
LONG AS
ASATO'S IN
OFFICE.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
WON'T
ATTACK
OKINAWA--



EVEN THE
ROOF AND
THE SUB-
FLOORING
ARE BEING
GUARDED.

TO
PREVENT
THAT,

GUARDS
WHO ARE
EXPERTS IN
KARATE
SURROUND
THE CASTLE.

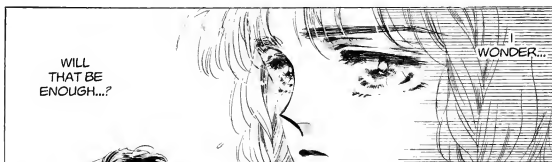


THAT
IS
TRUE.

BUT
THERE
ARE ALSO
THOSE
WHO
DON'T
THINK
THAT
WAY...

AND
THEY
THINK
ASATO'S
A PEST.

SO WE
MIGHT BE
TARGETED
AGAIN?



WILL
THAT BE
ENOUGH...?

I
WONDER...



WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

WOBBLE

SORRY...

THANKS.



SHUR!

WHA!



THANK
YOU.

OH!
I'LL
CHANGE
THE
WATER.



KCH

SARASA,
ARE
YOU
IN
HERE?



WHEN I
COULDN'T
SEE, I WAS
SO CAREFUL
WHEN I
WALKED
AROUND.

BUT NOW
THAT I CAN
SEE, I TRIP
OVER
THINGS.



THAT GIRL'S
STILL
RECOVER-
ING.

DON'T
WORK
HER
TOO
HARD.

HMF



WE'RE
TAKING
A BOAT
THIS
EVENING.

GET
READY.

UH...

OKAY.



I WAS A BIT
SURPRISED
THAT YOU'D
CHOOSE A
GIRL LIKE
THAT.

I MAY
HAVE
MIS-
JUDGED
YOU.

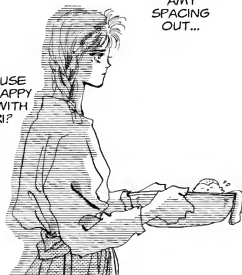
HO,
HO,
HO!

EVEN
AT A
TIME
LIKE
THIS...

...BECAUSE
I'M SO HAPPY
TO BE WITH
SHURI?

I
WONDER...

AM I
SPACING
OUT...





SO
TELL
ME.

HOW
WILL
YOU
DEFEND
OKINAWA
WITHOUT
FIGHT-
ING?



WITH THE
HELP OF
YUNA'S
KARATE
EXPERTS...

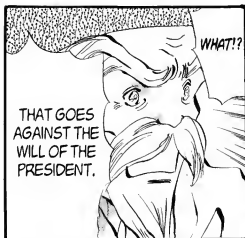
MY
PLANS
ARE
PRO-
GRESSING.



THAT
ASIDE,

CAN
YOU
DO IT?

CAN YOU
REALLY
DEFEND
OKINAWA
AS YOU
PROMISED?



WHAT!?

THAT GOES
AGAINST THE
WILL OF THE
PRESIDENT.



CRUNCH

JUST
WATCH.

THE WILL
OF THE
PRESIDENT
WAS NOT TO
TURN THE
COUNTRY
INTO A
**BATTLE-
FIELD.**

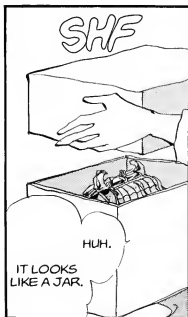


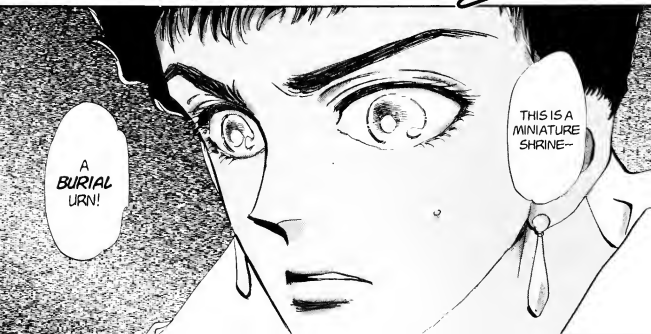
I...

...NEVER
SAID I
WOULDN'T
FIGHT.



IF HE STILL THINKS WAR IS FUN...

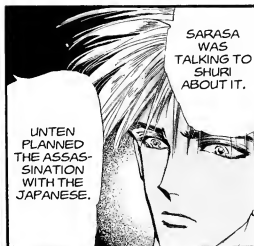


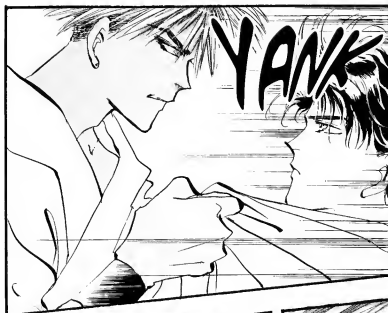














NAKIJIN...

YOU HAVE
A BETTER
EXPLANA-
TION?

WHY WAS
SARASA
ATTACKED
IN THE
BULL-
FIGHTING
RING?

SOMETIMES
THEY EVEN
BECOME
ENEMIES AND
KILL EACH
OTHER.



IT'S
NOT SO
SURPRISING,
REALLY.

EVEN
BROTHERS
HAVE THEIR
DIFFERENCES.



I
TRUSTED
HIM.

HE
WAS
SPECIAL
TO ME.



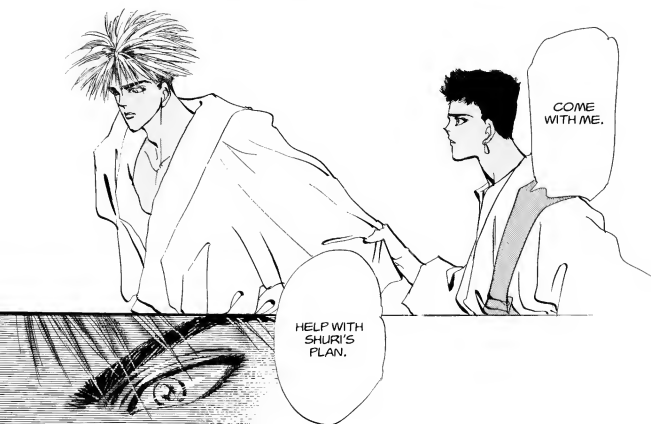
I
LOVED
HIM.

I LOOKED
UP TO MY
OLDER
BROTHER,
TOO.



SHURI,
DON'T
TALK
LIKE
THAT.

WHOSE
SIDE ARE
YOU ON?



IT'S
NOT
YOURS.

BUT
THAT'S
YOUR
BROTHER'S
WAY OF
THINKING...

YOUR
BROTHER HAS
HIS OWN WAY
OF THINKING.

FORGET
ABOUT YOUR
BROTHER
FOR A
SECOND AND
THINK FOR
YOURSELF!

DO YOU
ALWAYS
STAND
WITH HIM!?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU!?

WHAT DOES
NAKIJIN
WANT?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR OWN
BELIEFS?

WELL!?

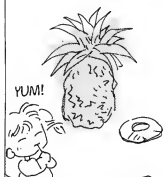
DO YOU
EVEN
KNOW,
NAKIJIN?

WHAT
DO **YOU** WANT
TO HAPPEN
TO OKINAWA?



BONUS TAM-TAM TIME

In Okinawa...



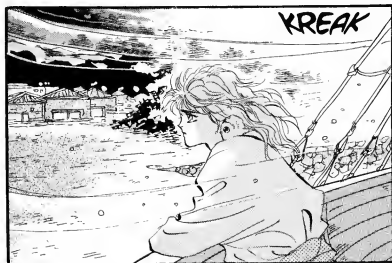
Sarasa saw a "pine" apple for the first time.

BUT I RECOGNIZE THIS.



IT LOOKS LIKE NAKIJIN, BUT...







I CAN'T
THINK...

MY
HEAD...

MY
EYES...

MY
EARS...

B-BM
B-BM
B-BM

...ABOUT
ANYTHING
ELSE.

ALL MY
SENSES CAN
ONLY
CONCENTRATE
ON HIM?

B-BM
B-BM
B-BM

I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND.

STOP THIS NONSENSE?

OKAY?

PAP

UH...

SHURI...

YOU ALWAYS
DECIDE WITHOUT
ASKING!

B-BM

WHEN
I'M
WITH
SHURI...

B-BM
B-BM

B-BM
B-BM

WHY IS
IT...



EVEN
THOUGH I
DON'T KNOW
WHERE NAGI
AND THE
REST
ARE...



EVEN
THOUGH I
LEFT
EVERYONE
BEHIND
WHEN I
CAME
HERE...



I
WANT
TO
BE
SARASA

WHEN
I'M
WITH
SHURI...



...AT
LEAST
NOT
THIS
HARD.

DAWN!
STILL TOO
SOON...

I DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU'D HAVE
TO THINK
ABOUT IT...

IT'S
ALMOST AS
IF...

SARASA...?



"TATARA"
DRIFTS
OFF
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE...



BUT...

I
FEEL
LIKE I'M
GETTING
STUPIDER
AND
STUPIDER.

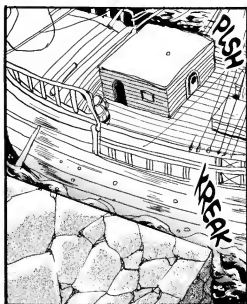


YEAH?



SHURI,
I...

I REALLY
LIKE YOU.



PISH

CRACK

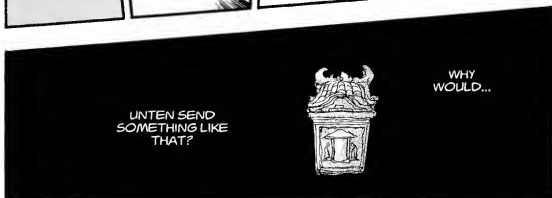
BUT I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IT IS!

I CAN'T
HEAR IT
CLEARLY.



AS
PROOF...

IT FEELS
LIKE AN
ALARM IS
RINGING IN
MY HEART.







NAKIJIN!

LEND
ME
YOUR
HORSE!

SARASA!?



I'M
SORRY!

I'LL
CATCH UP
WITH YOU
LATER!

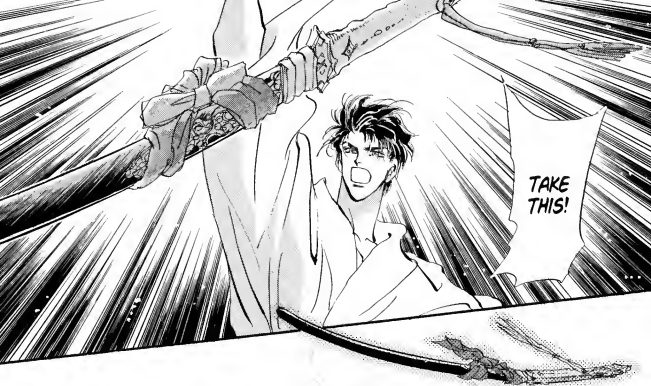
I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
PRESIDENT.



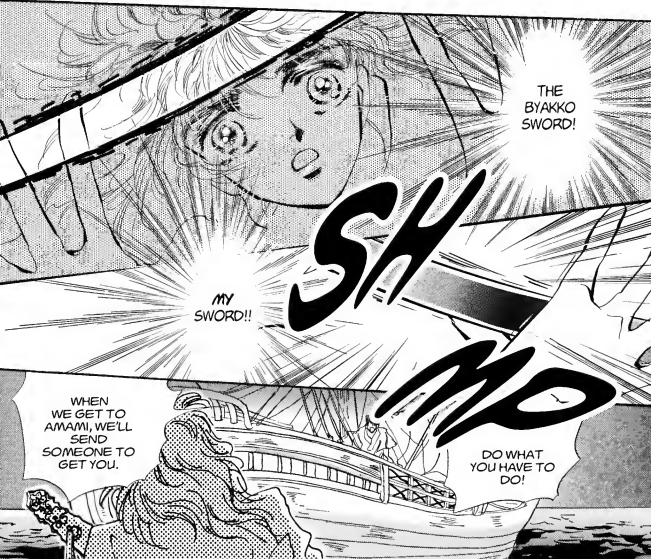
GOD
DAMN
IT!



SHURI!
SHOULD
WE STOP
THE
BOAT!?



TAKE
THIS!



THE
BYAKKO
SWORD!

my
SWORD!!

SH
MO

WHEN
WE GET TO
AMAMI, WE'LL
SEND
SOMEONE TO
GET YOU.

DO WHAT
YOU HAVE TO
DO!



LISTEN!

SAVE YOURSELF,
EVEN IF YOU HAVE
TO LEAVE THE
OTHERS!

IF IT
TURNS
UGLY--



NOTHING
MORE THAN
YOU!

THERE'S
NOTHING IN
THIS WORLD
THAT'S MORE
IMPORTANT
TO ME!



SHURI?



SHE
MIGHT
NOT
LOOK
IT...

BUT SHE
IS
AWFULLY
TOUGH.



YOU'RE
LEAVING
HER ON
HER
OWN?

ARE
YOU
NUTS?





I WONDER
WHY...?



JUST
WHEN I
THOUGHT
I HAD
HER...



SHE
DISAPPEARS.

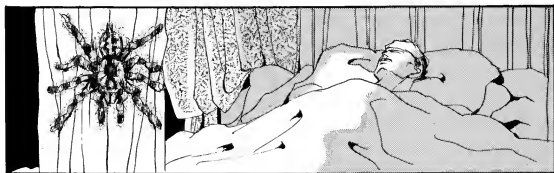
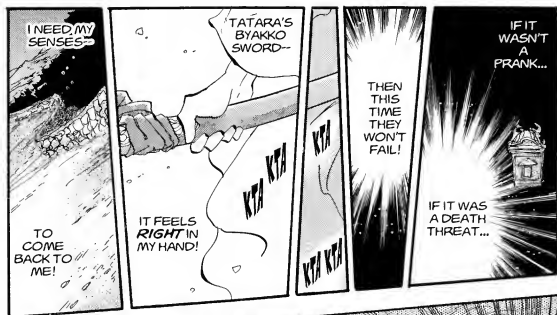
EVERY
TIME.

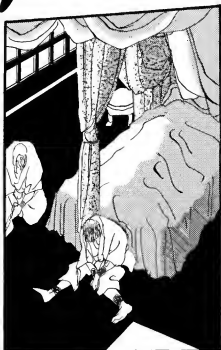
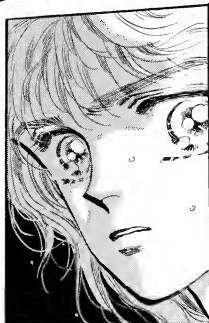
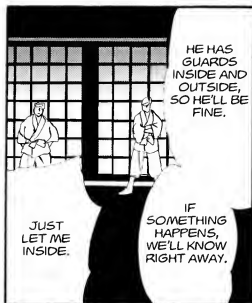
I
FEEL AS
THOUGH...

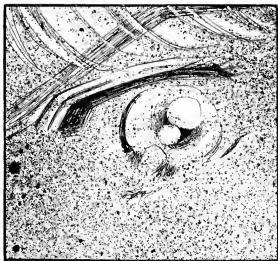
EVERY
TIME
WE
PART...

WE
MAY
NEVER
MEET
AGAIN.

IT
LEAVES
ME
UNEASY.









SORRY, MR. SPIDER.



2255

LET'S HEAD
SOUTH OF
NAHA BY
BOAT.

TRAVELING
BY LAND IS
DANGEROUS.



THERE ARE
WOMEN
THERE WHO
SERVE GOD.

TO
GYOKUSEN
CAVERN,
ONE OF
THE
SACRED
LANDS.

WHERE?

BRING THE
PRESIDENT
THIS WAY.

WE
KNOW
OF
YOUR
PLIGHT,

AND WE
HAVE
PREPARED
FOR YOUR
ARRIVAL.



OVER THERE
IS A
LIMESTONE
CAVE.

YOU SEEM
TO HAVE
CHANGED.

WELL,
THAT'S
FINE.



MAYBE
UNTEN...

BUT IT
WON'T
MATTER
TO THE
JAPANESE
ASSASSINS.

MM...

GOOD
POINT.



IN
OKI-
NAWA,

EVEN
UNTEN
WOULD
HESI-
TATE
TO
ATTACK
THEM.

THESE
WOMEN
ARE STILL
CONSID-
ERED
SACRED.



NOBODY
KNOWS
HOW
FAR IT
GOES
OR WHERE
IT
ENDS.

A
LIME-
STONE
CAVE?

IT'S A
CAVERN.



AH!



THE
PRESIDENT
IS SLEEPING
PEACEFULLY.

EXCELLENT!
THANK
YOU.



I'LL BRING
THE
PRESIDENT
INTO THE
CAVE.

IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS...



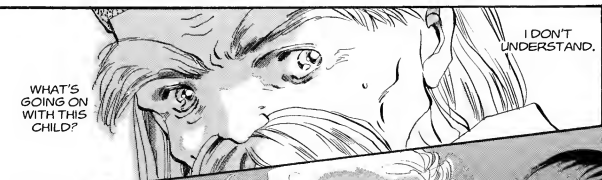
WE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
FOLLOWED.

REINFORCE
YOUR
GUARDS,
PLEASE.



IT'S
JUST A
NORMAL
SPIDER.

YOU SEE
THEM
EVERY-
WHERE.



WHAT'S
GOING ON
WITH THIS
CHILD?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.



SHE ALSO HAS
THE SPIRIT OF
BATTLE ON
HER FACE.

LIKE THE
BOY!!!

JAPAN – SUO CITY

IT IS A FIGMENT!
NOTHING LIKE
THAT COULD
POSSIBLY EXIST!

THE
GHOST SHIP
APPEARED
AGAIN!?

GENERAL MOMONOI OF THE NORTH

THE KING
GAVE US A
COMMAND!

IDIOTS!

THE
MEN
FEAR
IT.

WE
ARE TO BE
THE FIRST
WAVE OF
THE
ATTACK ON
OKINAWA.

THEY SAY
IT'S CURSED
AND DON'T
WANT TO
HEAD
TOWARD
OKINAWA.

IN AN
INSTANT,
FIVE SHIPS
WERE
REDUCED
TO
FLOTSAM!

BUT...
BUT,
SIR...

OUR
SHIPS SANK
WHEN IT
APPEARED!

THE SHIP HAS
RED SAILS,

AND ON
THE SHIP'S
DECK...

THAT'S NOT
THE ONLY
THING THE
MEN FEAR.



THEY SAY
THERE
STANDS THE
SPIRIT OF THE
RED KING!





LET'S SINK
A FEW
MORE
SHIPS!

THE
JAPANESE
ARE VERY
SUPER-
STITIOUS.

HA
HA
HA

--MY
HAUNTED
BOAT
STRATEGY?

HOW DO
YOU LIKE
IT?

HA
HA
HA
HA

BUT THE
BATTLE-
SHIP
CRIMSON
IS GONE.

JUST AS I
THOUGHT...

THE RED
ARMY OF
THE WEST
IS COMING.

THE FUJIN
FLEET HAS
BEEN
DESTROYED.

EVERY
SHIP
THAT
SANK...

THEY
USED TO
BE *MINE*.

HE HAS
A FLAIR
FOR
MELO-
DRAMA.

IS ALL
THIS
REALLY
NECES-
SARY?

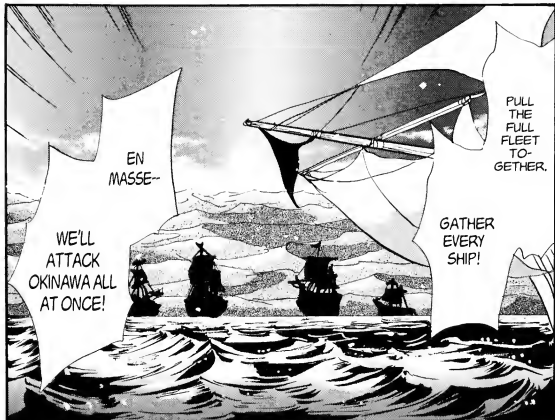
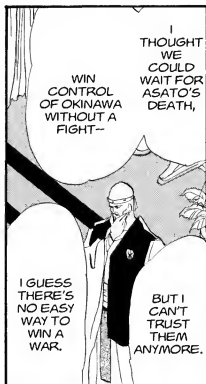
WHAT'S
WITH
THE
MOROSE?

IT'S
EMBARRASSING.

THERE
ARE NO
GOOD
SHIPS
LEFT IN
JAPAN.

THEY
CAN'T
REACH
OKINAWA.

AND
WITHOUT
GOOD
SHIPS...





A FOUR-PAGE BONUS!

TAM-TAM TIME

HOWDY! IS
EVERYONE HAPPY?

Recently, the Flower Comics
Special Graphic Novel "X-day"
came out in Japan.
Please read it! ♡ ☺

I have a new novel coming out too,
so check it out! ♡ ☺



I went to Okinawa
on a research trip!



TAMU

That's my
reason,
anyway.

I
GUESS I
HAVE TO
GO!



The setting for Basara
suddenly shifted to
Okinawa...

NAHA
AIRPORT

It was
raining
there.

But...

IT...IT'S COLD!



I only had my spring coat, and it was chilly.

It was my first
trip to Okinawa.
(I haven't been to
many places, so
every time I travel,
it's always my
first time). ☺

It was the end of
January, but it
was already spring
there.

I was excited! ♡

I moved around
my schedule and
managed to get a
week there.

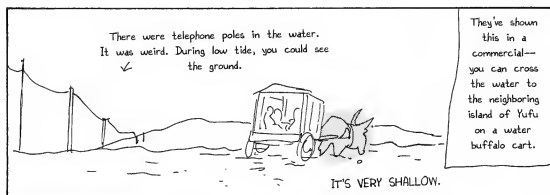
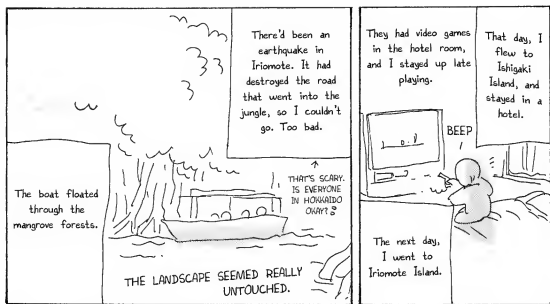
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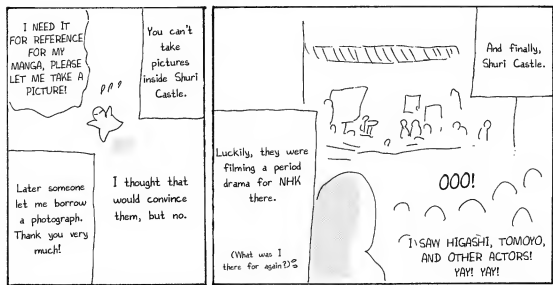
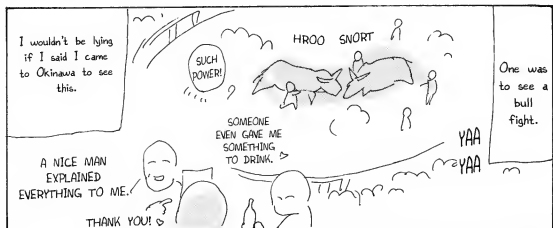
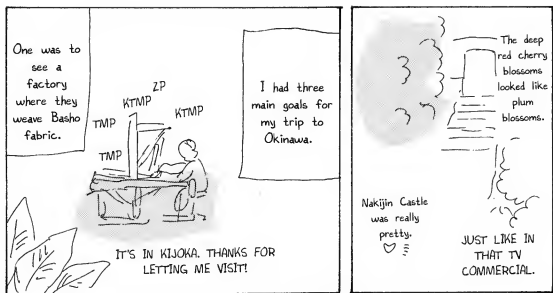
WAIT!

(That
happened
when I
went to
America, too). ☺

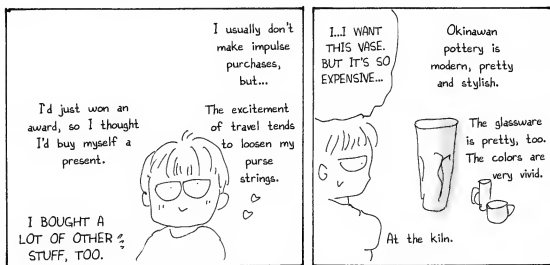
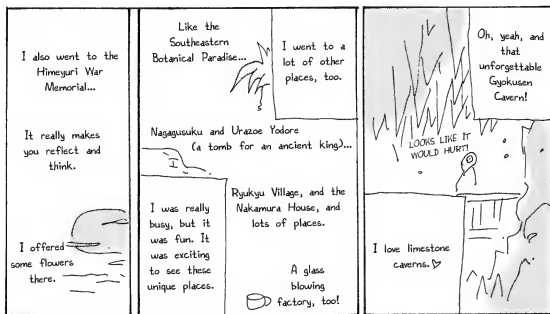
I ended up
being late
for my
flight.







THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!



Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

Chicago

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."



© 2001 Yumi Tamura/
Shogakukan, Inc.

Banana Fish

Currently running in the anthology *Animerica Extra*, Akimi Yoshida's most famous series is filled with gritty action. When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that causes gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."



© 1987 Akimi Yoshida/
Shogakukan, Inc.

Vagabond

One of the best action artists out there, Takehiko Inoue puts his skills to the test in this extraordinary series. Inspired by Eiji Yoshikawa's classic samurai story *Musashi*, *Vagabond* is the tale of an unfocused soldier on the losing side of history. Takezo's initial goal of survival escalates the violence around him, turning him into a homicidal wildman. Through the way of the sword, he must transform himself from brute to saint.



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Editor's comments

Situated over 250 miles south of Kyushu, Okinawa's location had made it a cultural crossroads for centuries. Once known as Ryukyu Kingdom, Okinawa has traditionally been its own nation with its own distinct culture. This is why Tamura gives her Okinawan characters such an independent spirit. Although currently part of Japan, there are plenty of Okinawans who'd like Okinawa to become its own nation again!

Weaving is a part of Okinawa's cultural pride. Made from a non fruit-bearing plantain known as ito basho, or fiber banana, airy basho cloth doesn't stick to hot skin like other fabrics, making it particularly suited for tropical climates. Once abundant and affordable, only a few artisans in Kijoka still produce it. Traditionally reserved for the upper class, *bingata* is the vibrant and elaborate stenciled cloth dying method unique to Okinawa.

Performing arts and bull fighting are among Okinawa's many traditions. The dance Yuna and Nakijin perform at the party is probably *nisai odori*, or young men's dancing. The movements echo those of karate, which originated in Okinawa. Sugar cane farming and fishing are also significant aspects of Okinawa's cultural legacy.

Japan's culinary heritage is rich with nutritional knowledge, and *okayu*, or rice gruel, is the meal of choice for the ill. This simple dish is hearty, easy to digest and has countless variations and potential ingredients.

J-League is Japan's pro soccer association, which debuted with ten teams in 1993. Advertised to the hilt, J-League was an instant hit and has now expanded to 28 teams in two divisions. Many teams have foreign players, and the Brazilian Alcindo Sartori was originally one of the most popular.

There's a translation detail I feel obliged to mention. In the scenes involving the ghost ship, I decided to use the sound of a bell ringing, since there is a natural association between bells and ships among English readers. In Japanese, the sound is made by a *dora*, or gong. Why? Well, aside from a gong's association with Buddhism, which lends an otherworldliness to the creepy craft, in Japan a gong is sounded when a ship sets sail.

